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BOOK REVIEWS.

THE DOCTRINE OF JUDICIAL REVIEW. By Edward S. Corwin. Pp. vii and 177. Princeton, N. J.: Princeton University Press, 1914.

This book takes its title from the first of a series of five essays which make up the volume. The subjects treated, all of which relate to questions connected with American Constitutional Law, are "*Marbury v. Madison*", and the Doctrine of Judicial Review"; "*We the People*"; "*The Pelatiah Webster Myth*"; "*The Dred Scott Decision*", and "*Some Possibilities of Treaty Making*". The discussions are interesting and readable. It seems not inappropriate, however, to refer especially to the first essay, since, although it deals with a much overworked subject, it discloses a real contribution to the literature on the topic. Of the remaining essays, that on the Treaty Making Power seems the most original and suggestive, but the others all evidence an interested study of the matters discussed.

The book is not so much addressed to the trained constitutional lawyer, or for that matter to the legal profession, as to that indefinite person the "general reader", who, if he be a person of a reasonable amount of education, will doubtless find it interesting.

H. W. B.

THE EVIDENCE IN THE CASE. By James M. Beck, sometime Assistant Attorney General of the United States. Pp. xxiv and 200. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, The Knickerbocker Press, 1914.

Mr. Beck in this little volume reviews all the evidence which the great nations have adduced to justify their entrance into the present war. The evidence is summed up before an imaginary court, the Supreme Court of Civilization, which exists in "the cosmopolitan men of every country who put aside racial and national prejudices and determine the right and wrong of every issue between nations by that slowly forming system of international morality which is the conscience of mankind". The book is legal in form and the inferences drawn from the facts are no greater than those which actually would be drawn in court. The conclusions reached are that the moral responsibility of the war rests upon Germany; that Germany could have averted the conflict had she chosen to do so, and that her violation of the neutrality of Belgium was wholly unjustifiable. It is true that this result is reached when incomplete evidence is offered in support of Germany and none at all offered by Austria; however it seems safe to assume that as each of these nations has made such strenuous efforts at justification, the strongest arguments are already advanced.

The style of Mr. Beck is pleasing and his arguments are convincing. The book should be of interest to every one, whether or not they agree with the author's conclusions.

E. W. M.

HANDBOOK OF THE LAW OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS. By Roger W. Cooley. Pp. xii and 711. St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing Company, 1914.

Following close upon the publication of a new edition of Judge Dillon's monumental work on municipal law, it is not surprising that a feeling of incompleteness is experienced in examining Mr. Cooley's attempt to encompass the subject in one small volume. The statement and re-statement of fundamental principles is praiseworthy, but the production of a book for practical usefulness requires something more to justify its purpose. Thus it is unsatisfactory to pursue a topic to the point where we are told that an important distinction exists between the governmental functions of a city and its purely private corporation character, but to search in vain for any